

Genesis Solar Energy Project (GSEP) Under Construction Thermal Trough Electrical Generating Station

Good morning Commissioners, my name is Eric Veerkamp and I am the Compliance Project Manager for the Genesis Solar Energy Project (GSEP). With me this morning is Joseph Hughes, representing the Air Quality staff. Also present representing the project owner are Jennifer Field and Scott Busa representing NextEra Energy.

Genesis is a solar thermal electrical generating station certified by the Energy Commission on September 29, 2010. The project is currently under construction and is approximately 15 percent complete; the project will provide 250 MW of power when completed. The GSEP project is located approximately 25 miles west of the City of Blythe in Riverside County.

On April 7 2012, Genesis Solar, LLC (NextEra Energy) filed a Petition with the Energy Commission to amend the Commission Final Decision for a relocated gen-tie line, a relocated natural gas line, and to bring revised Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District permits into consistency with amended Energy Commission Conditions.

Genesis has requested modifying the approved generator tie line, making minor adjustments to the alignment primarily related to where the line passes under the existing Eagle Mountain transmission line (Option A). Genesis has also requested approval of Option B for the generator tie line; the alignment of Option B differs from Option A in that the line jogs to the north and east as it leaves the project site running north of the Wiley's Well Rest Area, before turning south, and continuing until it crosses I-10 and connects with the Blythe Energy Transmission Line (BETL).

As a result of a new point of interconnect required by the Southern California Gas Company, Genesis is requesting two new alignments for the natural gas line, Option A and Option B. Option A follows roughly the alignment of gen-tie line Option A, running west from the point of natural gas interconnect, then north to the project site. Option B follows roughly the alignment of gen-tie line Option B, running east from the gas interconnect point, then north behind and north of the Wiley's Well Rest Area before turning west to the project site.

Due to terms of a new Large Generation Interconnection Agreement (LGIA), Genesis is also constructing a new small substation outside the fenced perimeter of the Colorado River Sub-Station to accommodate metering and protection equipment. Genesis is also seeking consistency between the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District permit and Energy Commission Air Quality Conditions of Certification directly related to three items; 1) updated equipment descriptions and emissions information for equipment actually purchased, 2) slight changes to emissions from some of the engines based on manufacturer specifications and, 3) the change from two large wet, mechanical draft cooling towers, to two large Air Cooled Condensers (ACC's) and two small package type wet cooling systems. Finally, the use of portable generators is being proposed to

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provide power during commissioning activities due to uncertainty in the timing of an agreement for obtaining backfeed power from the Blythe Energy Transmission line.

Energy Commission staff has reviewed the petition to amend, and have assessed impacts on environmental quality, public health and safety, and proposes new Conditions of Certification for Air Quality and a modified Condition of Certification for Biological Resources. It is staff's opinion that, with the implementation of new and revised conditions, the project will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards and that the proposed modifications will not result in a significant adverse direct or cumulative impact to the environment (Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1769).

The Staff Analysis, dated June 29, 2012, was docketed and posted to the website on June 29, 2012; the public review period ended on Monday July 30, 2012. A comment letter from the Center for Biological Diversity was received on July 30, 2012.